

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SENEGALESE MINISTER OF FINANCE BA VISITING US

1. SENEGALESE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BABACAR BA DEPARTS SENEGAL NOV 13 FOR PARIS AND WILL CONTINUE TO NEW YORK NOV 15, REMAINING IN U.S. UNTIL NOV 20. IN NOV 9 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, BA SAID HIS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY. SENEGAL'S US LEGAL COUNSEL, DAVID MORSE, IS ARRANGING PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES NOV 19 LUNCHEON WITH REPS OF CITIBANK AND OTHER FIRMS.

2. BA PLANS TO CONCENTRATE ON NEW YORK CONTACTS DURING THIS TRIP, LEAVING WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS FOR SECOND VISIT HE HOPES TO MAKE IN TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, IN VIES OF EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS HE WILL BE HAVING WITH AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR, BA WOULD WELCOME SOME OFFICIAL US CONTACT

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IN NEW YORK.

3. BA IS RANKING MEMBER OF SENEGALESE CABINET AFTER PRIME MINISTER, AND SERVES AS ACTING HEAD OF GOVT DURING SIMULTANEOUS ABSENCES OF PRIMIN AND PRESIDENT SENGHOR. HE HAS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR HIS LEADING ROLE IN NEGOTIATING LOME TREATY OF ASSOCIATION OF ACP COUNTRIES WITH EC AND FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF GOS DELS TO UN SPECIAL SESSIONS, IMF/IBRD MEETINGS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GATHERINGS. AS HEAD OF RULING UNION PROGRESSISTE SENEGALAISE (UPS) PARTY FOR SENEGAL'S MOST POPULOUS REGION, BA ALSO ENJOYS SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN SENEGAL (AND HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED MOST PLAUSIBLE CHALLENGER TO PRIMIN DIOUF AS SENGHOR'S SUCCESSOR).

4. BA'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES TOUCHING ON IMMEDIATE US INTERESTS HAVE INCLUDED NEGOTIATION OF FINANCING FOR \$14 MILLION BOEING 727 FOR GOS AND DIRECTION OF GOS PROGRAM TO PHASE OUT REVERSE PREFERENCES PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO EC COUNTRIES. FOR MANY REASONS, MISSION BELIEVES US SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE GESTURE OF WELCOME. WE URGE APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OR OTHER HOSPITALITY INVOLVING SENIOR USUN OR DEPT REP.

5. APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED THROUGH DAVID MORES. BA INDICATES HE WILL BE STAYING AT WESTBURY HOTEL ON MADISON AVENUE WHILE IN NEW YORK. AGGREY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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